



STATE OF IOWA

THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR
SALLY J. PEDERSON, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
JUDY A. JEFFREY, DIRECTOR

Contact: Kathi Slaughter
Iowa Dept. of Education
515/281-5651
kathi.slaughter@iowa.gov
For Immediate Release

Six Iowa Districts Receive Technology Learning Grants

(Des Moines, Iowa) – February 15, 2006 – The Iowa Learning Technology Commission today announced that \$460,000 in state grant funding will be awarded to six school districts for the implementation of innovative applications of leading edge technology.

Grant recipients are Sidney (\$87,763), North Cedar (\$64,290), Pella (\$96,363), Davenport (\$96,923), Clay Central/Everly (\$77,091), and Sioux Central (\$37,567). Each is required to provide matching funds from public or private, federal, state, or local financing. Grant funds will be distributed this month for use during the 05-06 and 06-07 school years.

Jeff Berger, Legislative Liaison for the Department of Education who staffed the Commission, said, "These grants are a necessary step in the exploration of innovative uses of technology in the classroom. We are seeking innovative applications of technology that enhance student performance. The diversity of approaches included in these grant initiatives will help legislators determine possible best practices that could be supported statewide in the future."

The grants are a part of a pilot program designed to encourage schools' use of innovative technology in a way that benefits student achievement and is based on best practice. Data will be gathered on student results and additional information necessary for the Legislature to consider implementation of a statewide technology initiative.

The Iowa Learning Technology Commission was established by the 2005 Legislature to administer this initiative. The Commission is comprised of seven voting members as well as other ex-officio members. Members serve three-year staggered terms.

In addition to the grant program, the Iowa Learning Technology Commission will:

- Develop an accurate assessment of the current status of technology in Iowa's public school classrooms supported by reliable data
- Identify and gather data to determine the current public, private, federal, state, community college, and local revenue sources used for K-12 educational technology at the school district, AEA, and state levels

Representative Carmine Boal, author of the bill that created the Iowa Learning Technology Commission, said, "These pilot projects will help legislators to identify technology strategies that

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Grimes State Office Building - Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0146

PHONE (515) 281-5294 FAX (515) 242-5988

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are successful in increasing student participation and achievement. Their success stories can be shared with other districts and support from future legislatures.”

Iowa Learning Technology Commission

Voting members:

Senate Appointees

1. Tom Brotherton - Executive Dean, Iowa Lakes CC - Emmetsburg
2. Ann Watts - Instructional Design Coordinator - DMACC
3. Tim Buenz - Director of Technology, Jefferson-Scranton CSD

House Appointees

4. William Decker - Superintendent - Mt. Ayr CSD
5. Matt Shaffer - Wellmark, Des Moines
6. Al Bode - Retired Teacher, Charles City
7. Gene Vincent – State Board of Education Chair

Legislative Ex-officio members:

Senator Danielson

Senator Ward

Representative Boal

Representative Mascher

Department Staff supporting the Committee

Jeff Berger

John O’Connell

State Board Technology Advisory Committee (ex-officios)

Gail Sullivan - DE

Pam Pfitzenmaier - IPTV/DE

Jim Billings - State Board

Greg Davis - Des Moines CSD

Lowell Ernst - Director of Instruction - Pella CSD

Carol Greta - DE

Judy Jeffrey - DE

Susan Olesen - IASB

Jim Osterberger - Director of Educational Technology and Planning - Archdiocese of Dubuque

Roger Rezabek - Director of Distance Learning - Hawkeye CC

Anne Travis - Talented and Gifted Coordinator - Shenandoah CSD

Marilyn Weber - Director of Learning Resources – AEA

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